

6. HEALTH CARE FOR FOREIGNERS

(health insurance of foreigners with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s., health care for foreigners and their falling ill with selected diseases)

The information on foreigners disclosed in this chapter is obtained from national health registers (the National Register of Hospitalized Persons and the National Register of Abortions), information system of bodies for public health protection (Register of Tuberculosis) and reports on the utilization of health care by foreigners. The reports are processed by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR (IHIS CR) in the framework of the National Health Information System (NHIS). The data are supplemented by information from the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s. (PVZP, a.s.) on health insurance of foreigners in the Czech Republic.

The health care data provide only non-exhaustive information on the utilization of health care by foreigners and their state of health in the CR.

Further information can be obtained on the IHIS CR's website: <http://www.uzis.cz/en>

The Centre for International Reimbursements (CIR) publishes data on utilization of health care by foreigners - citizens of EU/EEA and Switzerland, and foreigners from countries with which it has signed an agreement on social security, including the area of health insurance and health care, and data on costs spent for this health care. Over the last reporting period (April 1, 2009 - April 1, 2010), there were a total of 65 691 cases of foreign insured persons treated in the Czech Republic and the costs of their treatments paid by their home health insurance companies temporarily were through the CIR transferred to foreign countries. However, it should be stressed that the Centre for International Reimbursements uses a different definition than the Aliens Act. More information can be obtained on: www.cmu.cz/en

Methodological notes on the tables

Table 6-1. Health insurance of foreigners insured with the Pojišťovna VZP, a.s. (PVZP, a.s.) from 1 January to 31 December 2009

The table concerns foreigners with both long-term and short-term residence in the CR, who have effected contractual health insurance with the PVZP, a.s. It is insurance of foreigners under the Act No. 326/1999 Coll. on the Residence of Aliens on the Territory of the Czech Republic, as amended (42/2008 Sb.) applying for visa up to 90 days and the visa over 90 days, who are required to submit proof of health insurance during their stay in the Czech Republic with the PVZP, a.s. or one of the four competing insurance companies. The data in this publication refer only to one of the insurance companies of that type - PVZP, a.s.

The number of insured foreigners significantly decreased in 2009 compared to 2008 by 22.2% and amounted to 33 509 persons. It was the first decline since 2001, when the publication "Foreigners in the Czech Republic" was released for the first time, and it comprised data of insured foreigners. The reason for this decline is a decrease in the number of legally resident aliens residing in the Czech Republic. A great fall is especially in the insurance of citizens of Viet-Nam; their number fell by about 60% compared to 2008. With the decline in the number of insured foreigners, there was also decline in the number of insured foreigners from EU countries. Compared to the previous year the decrease by 10% was recorded and their contribution to the total number of insured foreigners who signed health insurance contract made 6.5%. Most foreigners, who signed health insurance contracts with the PVZP, a.s. came from the Ukraine, followed by Vietnamese and foreigners from the Russian Federation. Ukrainians participated in the total number of insured foreigners with 32.2% (10 792 persons), Vietnamese 19.2% (6 444 persons) and foreigners from the Russian Federation 9.8 % (3 292 persons). The health care was also utilized most by Ukrainians (29.8%, i.e. 2 167 persons), Vietnamese (22.8%, i.e. 1 662 persons) and Russians (11.9%, i.e. 866 persons).

Tables 6-2. and 6-3. Utilization of health care by foreigners

Data on the utilization of health care by foreigners are measured through annual questionnaire V (MZ) 1-01. It is compiled only by hospitals and regards foreigners that cover health care from health insurance policies concluded in the CR, insurance policies concluded abroad, in cash, or whose health care is reimbursed by state authorities (the Ministry of Health of the CR, Ministry of the Interior of the CR, Ministry of Justice of the CR, regional offices, etc.). The figures also include asylum seekers accommodated in asylum establishments of the Ministry of the Interior of the CR, whose health care is paid by the Ministry of the Interior of the CR.

Foreigners, whose health care is paid from the public health insurance, are not included in the questionnaire.

Tables 6-2. and 6-3. show data for hospitals for health sector in total. It means that besides hospitals coming under the Ministry of Health of the CR there are shown also hospitals under the Ministry of Defence of the CR and Ministry of Justice of the CR. In 2009, Czech hospitals provided health care to 78 665 foreigners. Of that, 37 951 of foreigners treated were from the member states of the European Union. Numbers of foreigners treated in hospitals slightly increase every year; the share of persons from the EU is about 50%.

Health care was provided most often again, like in the previous years, to citizens of Slovakia (20.2%, i.e. 15 918 persons). Following are foreigners from "other" countries (15.7%, i.e. 12 317), the Ukraine (14.1%, i.e. 11 077 persons), other countries of the former Soviet Union (12.5%, i.e. 9 810 persons) and Germany (7.5%, i.e. 5 916 persons). Citizens of Slovakia and Germany paid for the health care mostly from foreign insurance, citizens from "other" countries, the Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union paid for the health care in cash. From the total number of foreigners treated, the same as in previous years, most of the patients were in the age group of 20 - 59 years (70.1%).

In 2009, according to territorial breakdown, the biggest number of foreigners was treated in hospitals in the Hlavní město Praha Region (43%, i.e. 33 810 persons), the Karlovarský Region (12.5%, i.e. 9 798 persons) and in the Jihomoravský Region (10%, i.e. 7 857 persons). The smallest number of foreigners treated was in the Zlínský Region (1%, i.e. 805 persons), the Pardubický Region (1.3%, i.e. 1 059 persons), and the Vysočina Region (1.4%, i.e. 1 067 persons).

Health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 575 060 thousand. Costs on patients from the EU made 53.0% of the total costs, reaching the total amount of CZK 304 861 thousand. The costs of the health care provided were highest with patients from Slovakia (CZK 145 531 thousand) and "other" patients (CZK 106 305 thousand), from the Ukraine (CZK 72 399 thousand), and Viet-Nam (CZK 45 013 thousand).

The most often way of payment for health care for foreigners remains even in 2009 payment in cash (34.6%). The proportion of health care costs in total costs amounted to about 86.3 %. For health care provided to foreigners, as at 31 December 2009, the total of CZK 49 059 thousand (i.e. 8.5 % of the total amount of costs for health care) remained unpaid after maturity date.

Almost half (49.7%) of all the reported costs of health care provided to foreigners in regions was spent in the Hlavní město Praha Region (CZK 285 587 thousand). As for the amount of costs of health care the Jihomoravský Region (10.7%, i.e. CZK 61 565 thousand) was the second.

Table 6-4. Foreigners treated in hospitals: by cause of hospitalization; 2009

Until the year 2005 the Table 6-4. showed only foreigners with temporary residence. From 2006 it shows foreigners irrespective of length of their stay on the territory of the CR including tourists. Dramatic increase in the number of hospitalizations of foreigners compared to 2005 is linked with the change in monitoring of foreigners in the National Register of Hospitalized Persons where the column "EU nationality" was introduced.

In 2009, the number of the hospitalized foreigners slightly increased by 7.8% compared to the year 2008; it grew to the total number of 33 591 cases. The most frequent reasons for hospitalization of foreigners were pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium; in comparison with the previous year the increase by 9% was recorded. Following were factors influencing health status

and contact with health services (i.e., for example, medical check-ups and examinations, which require hospitalization, observations after injuries or when there is some suspicion of certain diseases and the like), injuries and poisoning, and diseases of the circulatory system. The least foreigners were hospitalized, like in the previous years, due to diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism.

In 2009, the total number of the hospitalized in Czech hospitals was 2 255 thousand persons. The number of foreigners hospitalized, namely foreigners irrespective of length of their stay in the CR of the total number of the hospitalized was 1.5%.

Tables 6-5. and 6-6. Abortions in female foreigners

All types of abortions made in health establishments of the CR shall be reported on the form "Application for Induced Abortion - Report of Abortion and Ectopic Pregnancy". This report is also filled in for female foreigners granted permanent or long-term residence in the CR. Female foreigners with temporary residence and female tourists are not monitored.

In 2009, 3 020 abortions in female foreigners were registered, which is a decrease in comparison to the previous year (by 7.1%), of which 2 268 (75.1%) were induced abortions. Also in the number of vacuum aspirations there was a decrease by 11.5% compared to previous year (1 732 in 2009 and 1 958 in 2008).

From induced abortions 8.2% were therapeutic abortions. Vacuum aspirations made up 76.4% of all induced abortions.

The total number of abortions in female foreigners had been decreasing gradually since 2002 (from 2 751 in 2002 to 2 238 in 2005). From 2006 to 2008, the number of abortions was increasing; whereas in 2006 there were 47 more abortions than in 2005, in 2008 it was already by 594 more abortions than in 2007. In 2009, the decline by 232 abortions in female foreigners occurred after three years of growth. At the same time, the number of induced abortions decreased from 2 526 in 2008 to 2 268 in 2009.

The evaluation of the data by region is influenced by the biggest concentration of foreigners in the Hlavní město Praha Region and the Středočeský Region, in which there is the biggest proportion of abortions within the entire CR.

In 2009, 37 508 abortions in Czech female citizens were reported; in total, i.e. including female foreigners, 40 528 abortions were reported. The proportion of abortions in female foreigners in the total number of abortions reported in the Czech Republic decreased compared to the year 2008 and was 7.5%.

Table 6-7. Newly notified TB cases in the CR; by the patient's country of birth

The table gives the number of newly notified cases of tuberculosis (TB) in the CR broken down by the country of birth of patients (not necessarily foreigners).

There were 710 TB cases newly notified in 2009, i.e. by 19.2% less than in the previous year. It means that the downward trend in the number of newly registered cases of TB since 1999 continues again. Only in 2008 the growth by 1% was recorded for the first time. It was caused mainly by the decreasing proportion of the foreigner's diseases (19.2% of the total number of TB cases). The Ukraine had the highest number of newly notified TB cases in 2009 (34 in total).

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Chapter 6 on the health care for foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2009 is released in the same extent as in the previous years. The data are provided for health sector as a whole. Until and including 2002, only data for the Ministry of Health of the CR were provided in the tables.

It results from the comparison of the data on health care utilisation by foreigners in the Czech Republic for 2009 and 2008 that by 9 597 less foreigners signed health care insurance policies with the PVZP, a.s. (mainly citizens from Viet-Nam), which was a decrease by 22.2%. It was accompanied by a decrease in the number of foreigners utilising health care on the basis of these policies.

The number of foreigners treated in hospitals in 2009 was slightly smaller than in previous year, by 401 persons less, but the total costs of health care were higher and increased by 3.7%.

Dramatic growth of hospitalizations of foreigners in 2006, compared to 2005, was due to more detailed registration of foreigners in the Register of Hospitalized Persons, in which not only foreigners with temporary residence are monitored but all foreigners irrespective of the length of their stay on the territory of the CR. In 2009 it was the first time since 2006 when the total number of hospitalizations of foreigners increased (by 7.8%). According to the patient's country of birth, the number of newly notified cases of TB in the CR decreased again by 169 cases in 2009 compared to 2008.

Generally, in 2009, as for the data on health care for foreigners monitored, there was a decrease in the total number of foreigners. Only the total costs of health care for foreigners and number of treated foreigners by cause of hospitalization slightly increased compared to 2008.